

Allen County Family Court Project

Basic County Information for Allen County

Population: 344,006

County Seat: Fort Wayne

Number of Judicial Officers: 10 judges, 15 magistrates

Project Implementation: June 30, 2006

Allen County Project Judges: Judge Thomas Felts, Allen Circuit Court

Judge Charles Pratt, Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division

Judge Stephen Sims, Allen Superior Court, Juvenile Division

Development Team: Tim Miller, Allen Circuit Court

Jennifer Levine, Allen Superior Court, Family Relations Division

Karlene Thompson, Allen Superior Court, Juvenile Division

Family Court Personnel: Project hiring a part time referral coordinator

Contact Person: Tim Miller, timothy.miller@co.allen.in.us, 260-449-4007

Family Court Mission Statement

Through the use of technology and local Trial Rules, the Allen County Family Court Project shall develop and maintain an effective case management system to share information between courts, coordinate services for families, and insure the provision of quality alternative dispute resolution.

Family Court Programming

Local Rules

An extensive review and redefining of the local rules that will include the specific Family Court Rules will be conducted. A comprehensive committee of local members of the family bar will update, modify and enhance existing local rules and include the specific Family Court Rules.

Communication/Technology

Establish specific family court case type in the case management system that will allow appropriate court staff to view all relevant case information and prevent duplication or contradiction of orders pertinent to the case.

Collaborative Divorce / Mediation

The Family Court Grant shall be used to provide training for local bar on the processes to be employed for “collaborative divorce.” Through this program:

- parents will be encouraged to creatively produce parenting options;
- empower lawyers to aid families through the problem solving skills;
- encourage multi-discipline professionals to assist in the process and,
- incorporate case management services in the mediation process.

In addition the grant will be employed to develop mediation and Family Group Decision Making process in pro se dissolutions and post dissolution matters.

Paternity Facilitation Program

Consider part time positions to explain, schedule, and coordinate the delivery of services for parents, children, and/or extended families involved in paternity cases.

Families Served in Allen County

We are projecting to serve 24 families in 2007.